

REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 31, 2000 with claims 1-27. Claims 1, 10 and 19 are the independent claims.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejects claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over S. Chakrabarti et al., "Focused Crawling: A New Approach to Topic-Specific Web Resource Discovery," Computer Networks, 25 pages, 1999 (hereinafter "Chakrabarti") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,901 (hereinafter "Chaudhuri"); and (ii) rejects claims 9, 18 and 27 as being unpatentable over Chakrabarti in view of S. Chakrabarti et al., "Distributed Hypertext Resource Discovery Through Examples," Proceedings of the 25<sup>th</sup> VLDB Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, pp. 375-386, 1999 (hereinafter "Ch2").

Claim 1 includes a limitation wherein a computer-based method of performing document retrieval in accordance with an information network includes a step of collecting at least a set of aggregate statistical information and a set of predicate-specific statistical information about the one or more retrieved documents as the one or more retrieved documents are analyzed. Aggregate statistical information and predicate-specific statistical information are respectively described in the present specification as information maintained for all retrieved documents and information maintained for the subset of the retrieved documents which satisfy a given predicate. See, for example, page 8, lines 18-20, and page 10, lines 15-25.

In formulating the rejection of claim 1 on page 4 of the present Office Action, the Examiner concedes that Chakrabarti fails to disclose the aforementioned limitation of claim 1 wherein at least a set of aggregate statistical information and a set of predicate-specific statistical information are collected about the one or more retrieved documents as the one or more retrieved documents are analyzed. The Examiner instead argues that this limitation is met by column 19, lines 35-63 of Chaudhuri.

Applicants have reviewed the relied-upon portion of Chaudhuri and have found no teaching or suggestion directed to collecting at least a set of aggregate statistical information and a set of predicate-specific statistical information about the one or more retrieved documents as the one or more retrieved documents are analyzed. Rather, the relied-upon portion of Chaudhuri is directed toward a technique, MNSA, for "determining if the existing set of statistics contains an essential set

of statistics.” (Chaudhuri, column 19, lines 35-36, with emphasis added).

Moreover, as noted above, claim 1 includes a limitation directed toward collecting a set of aggregate statistical information, e.g., information maintained for all retrieved documents. The Examiner apparently contends that this limitation is met by Chaudhuri’s disclosure that “Aggregation (GROUP BY or SELECT DISTINCT) clauses can be handled by associating a selectivity variable that indicates the fraction of rows in the table with distinct values of the column(s) in the clause.” Applicants respectfully submit that a disclosure of a manner in which GROUP BY or SELECT DISTINCT clauses may be handled fails to teach or suggest a limitation directed toward collecting a set of information maintained for all retrieved documents.

Likewise, claim 1 includes a limitation directed toward collecting a set of predicate-specific statistical information, e.g., information maintained for the subset of the retrieved documents which satisfy a given predicate. The Examiner apparently contends that this limitation is met by Chaudhuri’s disclosure that “MNSA guarantees inclusion of an essential set of the query only as long as the selectivity of predicates in the query is between  $g$  and  $1-g$ .” Applicants respectfully submit that a disclosure that an algorithm guarantees inclusion of an essential set of a query only so long as the selectivity of predicates in the query is within a certain range fails to teach or suggest a limitation directed toward collecting a set of information maintained for the subset of the retrieved documents which satisfy a given predicate.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the relied-upon portions of Chaudhuri fail to remedy the fundamental deficiencies of Chakrabarti with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teachings of Chakrabarti and Chaudhuri fail to render the limitations of claim 1 obvious, as alleged by the Examiner.

Independent claims 10 and 19 contain limitations similar to those of claim 1 and are believed patentable for at least the reasons identified above with reference to claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-8, 11-18 and 20-27 are believed patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with reference to the independent claim from which each depends. Furthermore, one or more of these claims defines independently patentable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully note that the present Office Action indicates, at paragraph 17, that claims 9, 18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chakrabarti as applied to claims 1-8, 10-17, and 19-26 above, and further in view of Ch2. Applicants believe that the rejections of claims 9, 18 and 27 should be indicated as being over the combination of Chakrabarti, Chaudhuri and Ch2, rather than just Chakrabarti and Ch2. As noted previously, claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19-26 were rejected as being unpatentable over Chakrabarti in view of Chaudhuri. Moreover, the Examiner has failed to indicate the manner in which Ch2 is believed to overcome the acknowledged failure of Chakrabarti to disclose the limitations of the independent claims.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the present 103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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